

Many of us have experienced downtime from weather, war or illness before, but no one has ever experienced the type of global disaster we are now enduring. Someday there will be a cure to this virus, although we need to understand that our modern world brings multiple threats that we need to comprehend and take seriously. As educators, we are responsible for ensuring that the expertise needed to maintain this complex world continues to be regenerated. We need to do that face-to-face when we *can* and online when we *must*.



सत्यमेव जयते

Department of Education  
Government of Meghalaya

# INITIATIVES UNDERTAKEN

During the COVID-19 Lockdown Period

20  
20

THE SHILLONG TIMES, SHILLONG, THURSDAY, APRIL 30, 2020

## State initiatives prove helpful for teachers, entrepreneurs

**By Our Reporter**

SHILLONG: The state's education department can boast of one thing — training its teachers for the worst situation, or in other words implementing the Teachers Professional Development Programme (TPDP).

Call it the foresightedness of the state government but the fact is that many teachers in the state are building resources independently and coming up with innovative strategies to target students who are especially hard-hit.

The lockdown of 14,669 schools in the state has interrupted students' curriculum. Around 92,132 students in Meghalaya are facing a learning crisis, disruption in internal assessments and confusion in utilising time productively.

Last year, with the support of the Asian Development Bank, the Directorate of School Education and Literacy (DSEL) and IPE Global implemented the Teachers Professional Development Programme that trained around 3500 teachers and head teachers.

They are preparing lesson plans, rubrics, teaching aids, and using cyber platforms for classes, video and audio lectures, and conducting online meetings of the professional learning communities.

Abantiping Rynjah, who is teaching in Mawkhar Christian Higher Secondary School, has recently created a YouTube channel called *Jdnor Thop*. *Jdnor Thop* in English means diligent or hard-working.

"As a teacher, I thought of ways of teaching the students during this lockdown and realized that the best way to reach those who are eager to learn is through the internet. I have recorded topic wise videos and uploaded them on YouTube. I have also tried my best to make these videos in Khasi as I know that many students in Meghalaya have difficulty in understanding certain concepts which are explained in English," Rynjah said.

Another teacher, Bakordor Wanlang Bannet from Pariong is leading in tackling the epidemic and related issues like psychosocial care, sexual and reproductive health. Under the project supported by WHO (World Health Organisation), Bakordor is spreading awareness regarding coronavirus, psychosocial/mental health care, gender-based violence, and promote practices to minimize the risks and develop mechanisms to deal with the public health crisis that is at hand.

"I am also teaching women to stitch their own masks online by providing them measurements and other assistance. As a result, many women have stitched masks not only for themselves but for their neighbours too," said Bakordor.

She also formed WhatsApp groups to distribute relevant messages with women related to COVID-19, homecare and precautions, psychosocial care and sexual and reproductive health, and domestic violence.

Under the project jointly ventured by WHO, SEWA (Self Employed Women Association), and NEN (North East Network), Bakordor is facilitating a six-week-long course for women to help them deal with this situation.

Besides, the Entrepreneurship Development activities under the Managed Services Operating Partner (MSOP) project have strengthened the efforts of local youths to take part in this unprecedented situation.

There is a shortage of face masks, hand sanitizers and other health products but Meghalaya entrepreneurs are leading the way to ease this problem to some extent.

A Shillong-based entrepreneur, Kynjai Papa Mawthoh, is one of the hundreds of entrepreneurs under the MSOP project who launched a start-up called 'Hygeia' in Shillong. It is a liquid cleaning product industry which is now a great source of motivation to educated but unemployed youths of Meghalaya.

At present, Kynjai is manufacturing hand sanitizers, hand wash and soaps and trying very hard to put in the market when these products are running shortage.

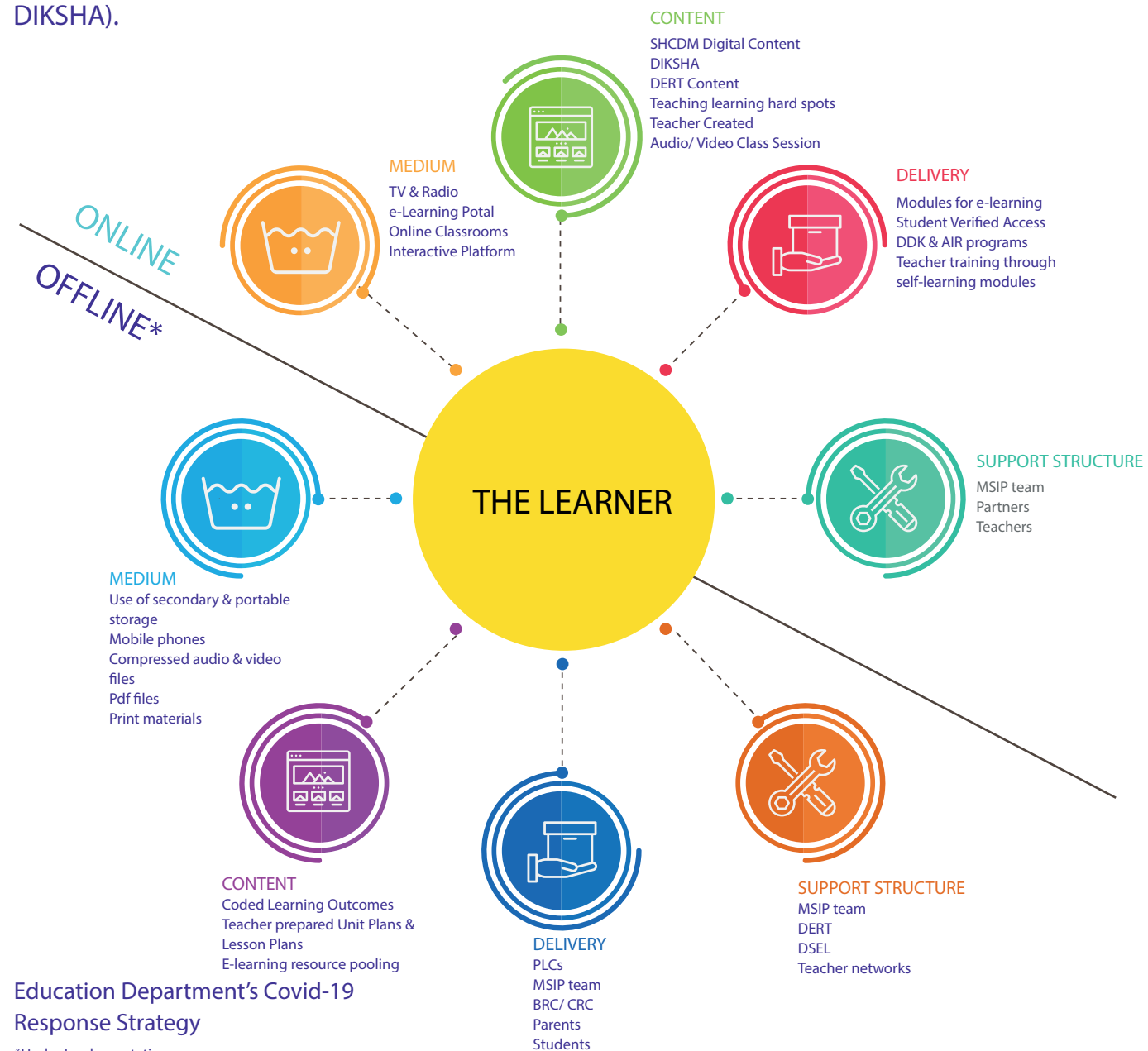
(Contd on P-10)

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# Initiatives Undertaken by The Department of Education, Govt of Meghalaya During the COVID-19 Enforced Country Wide Lockdown Period

On the frontline of the coronavirus catastrophe, we see first responders and health care professionals courageously doing their duty and too often falling victim to this pandemic. Students worldwide are having their education disrupted by the spread of Coronavirus. In this uncertain environment, it is important that learning continues, even if it cannot happen in person. This is a time when educators must continue to teach and must also search for lessons from this current catastrophe. As educational institutions around the world are temporarily shut, schools are using existing platforms from the likes of Microsoft and Google as well as conferencing apps like Zoom to deliver lessons for their pupils.

Unlike any time in the past, the Department of Education now have the ability to ensure learning, to large extend even when schools are closed, with the help of its initiatives and activities including e-learning portal (CR School) and digital content portal (e-Scholar, DIKSHA).



## Report on Distribution of Mid Day Meal to Schools

In compliance to Hon'ble Supreme Court of India direction dated: 18.03.2020 to all State Governments to come up with a policy so as to ensure, that while preventing spread of COVID-19, the scheme for providing nutritional food to the Children are not adversely affected during the closure of all Institutions.

Sl.No	Category	Food grain per child per day In Grams	Cooking Cost rate per child per day
1	Primary	100 grams	Rs.4.48
2	Upper Primary	150 grams	Rs.6.71

The outcome of Mid Day Meal in these closure of schools has covered 11678 (i.e. 8264 LPS & 3414 UPS) functioning Government & Government Aided Schools and SSA Schools and 533752 (385399 LPS & 148252 UP) children are expected to be benefited from the distribution of entitlement of Food grain and Cooking to School Children from the Mid Day Meal Scheme.



West Khasi Hills  
Mission Mairang Upper Primary School



North Garo Hills  
N&S Memorial Lower Primary School



# MBOSE Evaluation of Answer Scripts of SSLC & HSSLC Examination, 2020

Upon commencement of the HSSLC / SSLC Examinations the process of Evaluation along with all other related works was also duly started. As a regular practice, with the early declaration of results in focus, the exercise of evaluation started at the very onset of the examination itself i.e., on the first week of March, with the involvement of all experienced evaluators appointed in full strength from across all the MBOSE affiliated institutions in the State. The evaluation process had to be kept in abeyance abruptly due to the sudden development of the Covid-19 Pandemic and the lockdown that followed during the third week of March, 2020. Utmost care and steps were taken to ensure the safe storage of all answer scripts and in maintaining the confidentiality of the whole exercise before suspension of all evaluation and other examination related work.

However, the Government of Meghalaya is keen to complete the evaluation by the end of May, 2020 and the order to restart the evaluation of answer scripts was received by MBOSE. Accordingly, the evaluation process was reinitiated with minimum required number of examiners keeping in mind the safety protocol of social distancing and other health related issues as per the directive of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India.

<b>Date of Order to restart evaluation of answer script by the Government of Meghalaya</b>	20 <sup>th</sup> April, 2020
<b>Date of restart of evaluation</b>	22 <sup>nd</sup> April, 2020
<b>Evaluation progress</b>	Some subjects have been completed. Other are in the evaluation process.

## TEACHER INITIATIVES

In addition to the various efforts of the government, some school teachers have improvised during the current lockdown situation and are using social media platforms such as WhatsApp, Instagram and other online video-hosting services to deliver resources and assignments to students.

Case Story: Mr. Aibantiplang Rynjah, a teacher in Mawkhar Christian Higher Secondary School, Shillong has taken it upon himself the responsibility of imparting knowledge to students during the ongoing Covid-19 lockdown by launching a YouTube channel entitled "Minot Thop", after failing in his effort to start with a website for this purpose due to the high cost for server space. He effectively took advantage of YouTube being a platform viewed particularly by the younger generation fact and utilized it to share video lessons on important concepts of Mathematics and Physics at secondary level education.

### Comments on the channel:

 Jimmy Blah 1 month ago  
Very clear and simple explanation, thanks Sir 👍👍👍










👍 2 🗨️ REPLY

 Red Rose 2 weeks ago  
Sir, please keep making more videos

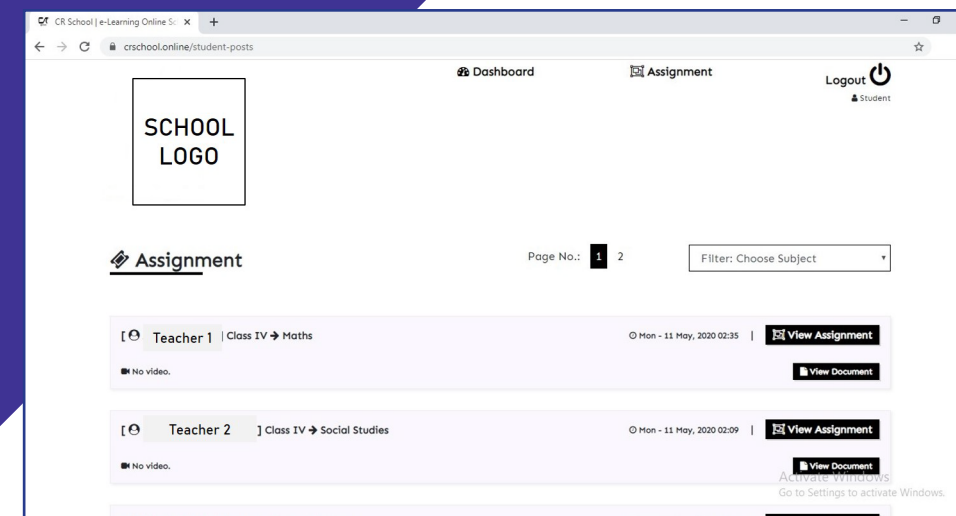
👍 🗨️ REPLY

## e-Learning Portal

The Government of Meghalaya has started an online learning portal in collaboration with CR Projects for classes KG to X to ensure a continuity in students' studies even as they are faced with an inability to carry out normal learning activities in a school/classroom environment. The platform features a robust system for communication, collaboration and sharing of digital contents which allows access for schools, teachers and students to ensure:

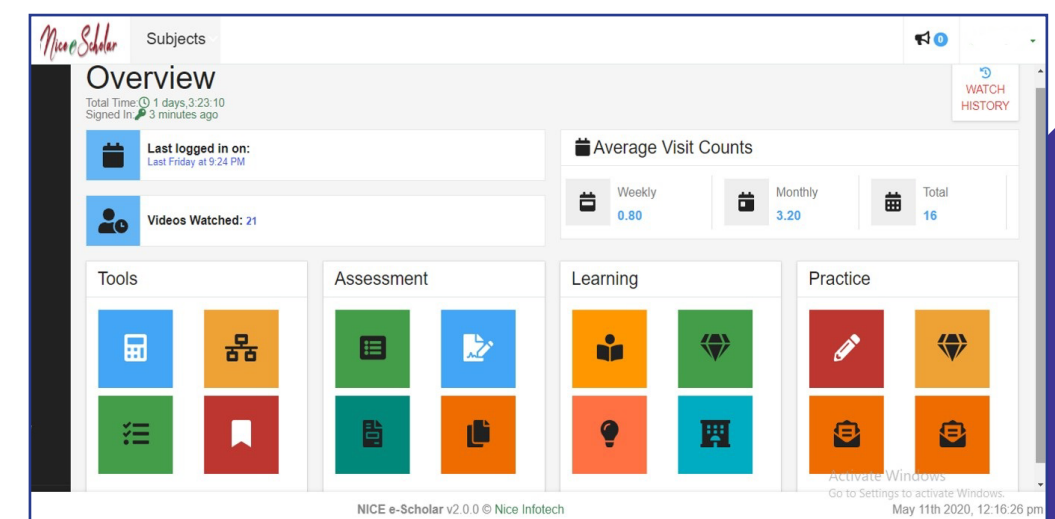
-  Seamless and Free Online Classes
-  Syllabus-Wise Class Lessons
-  Anywhere-Anytime Access to Study Materials
-  Uploading of Video Lessons by Teachers
-  Student Evaluation
-  Downloadable Content
-  Interactive Learning Process and Communication between Teacher and Student
-  Prometric Tests
-  Mobile App(Android and IOS)

Registration with the e-learning portal is free for everyone to encourage participation of schools from all over Meghalaya. This is one option to permit accessibility to study material, necessary instruction and most important, to assure students that their teachers are within reach. The portal can be easily accessed on a desktop, laptop, tablet, and even a smartphone.

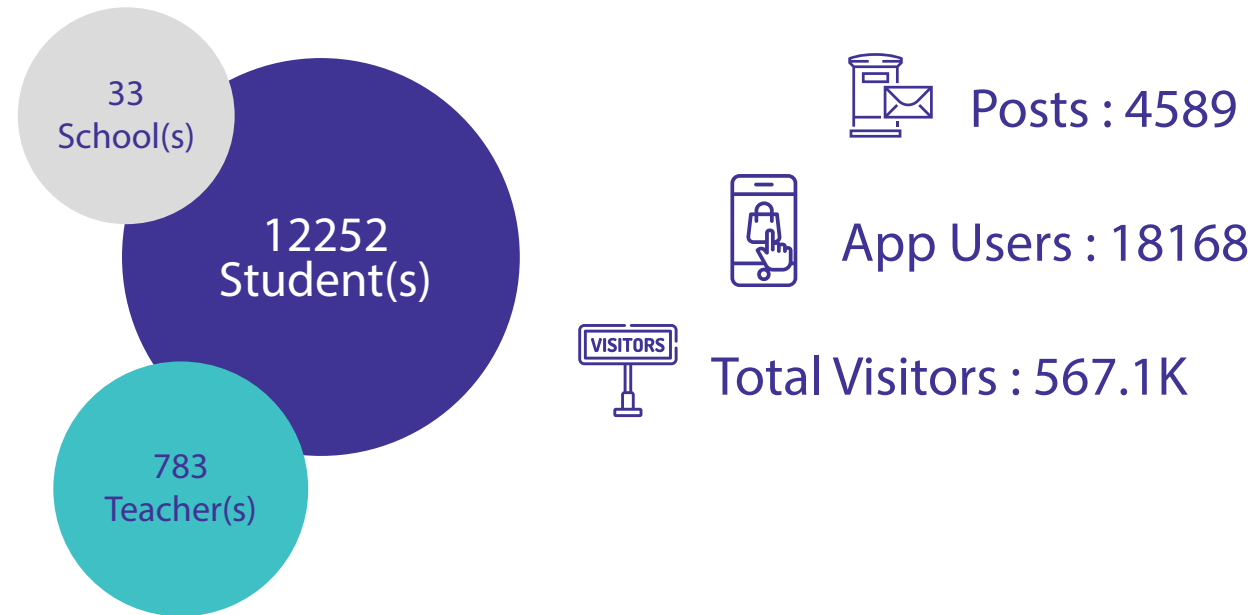


Screenshot of e-learning portal


Home screen of digital content portal




At present, 33 schools have registered with CR School. Information on teachers and students is represented as follows:




### Testimonials (CR School users)

 **Azmeen Rani** recommends CR School.  
11 April at 12:02

The selfless dedication of CR Projects and team in providing an interactive e-learning to the students amidst this lockdown# Kudos to the Members of CR Projects!

 **Thainitha Momin** Thank you CR School.. My daughter who is in Pine Mount now gets her homework everyday. 😊😊

 **Rozyenna Nongbak Sangma** Very good initiative 👍👍 my sister is enrolled and she is now getting assignments from her teachers everyday.

### Digital Content Portal

On the 27th April 2020, the Department of Education, Government of Meghalaya announced the pilot launch of the e-Scholar portal ([https:// niceinfotech.co.in](https://niceinfotech.co.in)). Through this platform, digital content developed for secondary level under Supporting Human Capital Development in Meghalaya Project was aimed at SHCDM project schools. However, access has now been given to all secondary and higher secondary schools to aid in their studies during this pandemic. This portal has content is for all subjects with the exception of MIL. An emphasis has been stressed on the availability of comprehensive and interactive study material, multimedia, reference books, in tandem with the MBOSE syllabus. Other resources such as Articles, Assessment Tools will be added subsequently.

- IIM Nongtymmai was the first centre to receive quarantine patients with a few hours' notice due to the sudden detection of Covid 19 cases in the state, which Education Department had facilitated to ensure smooth admission
- Engaging, training, handholding of a cadre of Office Assistants and Supervisors to take over operations from the Staff of Education Department



Corona Care Centre, IIM, Umsawli





# DIKSHA: Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing

DIKSHA is a web portal of the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD), Government of India that function as a repository of digital contents that aimed at providing teachers with e-resources teaching materials and to equip them with advanced digital technology.

DIKSHA resources is yet to be used to good advantage during the period of Covid-19 lockdown. However, it may be mentioned that before the occurrence of the Pandemic, DERT has already carried out awareness activities about the portal with all district authority across the state during 2019-20. The DERT/ state-DIKSHA team has also digitized a good number of textbooks for this web portal.

A team of teachers who are the content developers have linked digital resources to the MBOSE textbooks and these can be used for self-learning as the digital contents for hard spots have been created. The contents and resources can be used by teachers for their online teaching activities.

Accomplishments:

- 13 new text books have been digitized
- 553 contents have been created
- 15000 new contents since lockdown have been linked
- 675 hours of content have been used/played

## Role of Education Department in Covid-19 Preparation (PIU-1/ MSIP contribution)

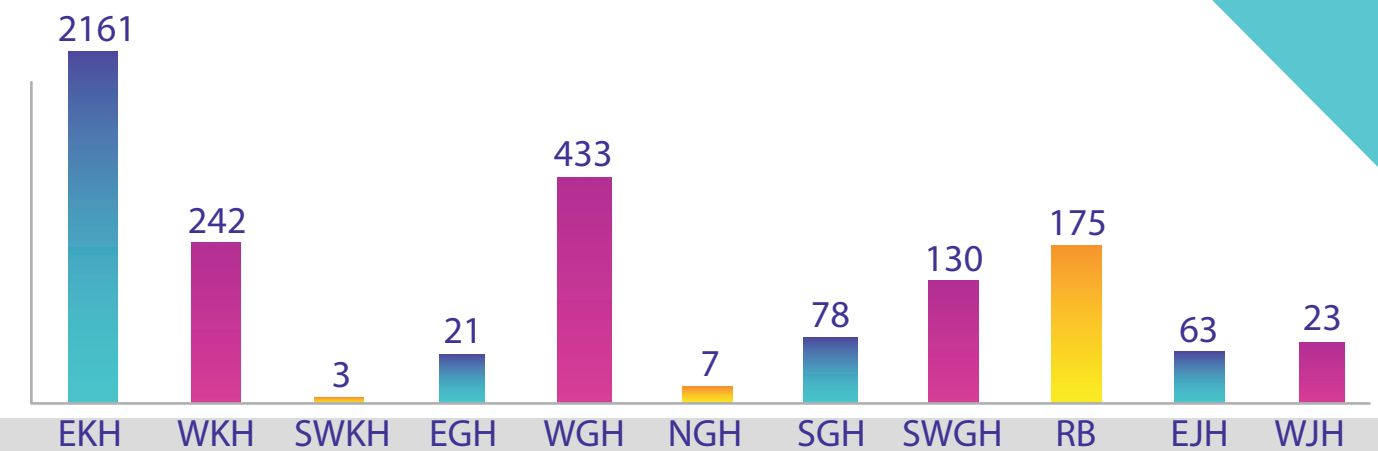
Government of Meghalaya in its preparation to combat Covid-19, had initiated the setting up of several Corona Care Centres viz., to prepare, contain and mitigate the pandemic in the state. Education Department is one of the agencies tasked with the setting up of three such centres at IIM Nongthymmai, IIM Umsawli and MIIT within a span of 1 month.

The different achievements of the Department in this activity are:

- Identification, reconnaissance of the centres and networking with the management of the 3 institutions
- Facility planning as per the requirements of Health Department
- Preparation of the centres in terms of facilities for patients, medical related facilities
- Enabling the centres with communication, surveillance, networking facilities like EPABX, CCTV, PA system and wi-fi
- Refurbishing patients room with furniture, toiletries, utensils to ensure comfortable stay
- Engaging manpower like Security guards, Housekeeping, Data entry operators, Receptionists, Cleaners etc., through third party agencies and planning of roster and shift plans
- Sourcing of manpower and coordination with Health Department for training
- Setting up & manning of Administration office for front end operations
- Setting up of back end operations and coordination with food caterers, suppliers, transportation, manpower agencies for all requirements of the centres
- IIM Umsawli setup by the Department is the biggest centre in the state with 258 rooms, and was setup on a premises with bare buildings. Extensive work was done to get electricity, water supply, sewerage, drainage, bathroom fittings, to make the facility ready

The Department is ensuring that schools are made aware regarding this through the Meghalaya School Improvement Programme, State and District teams. As of 8th May 2020, more than 3500 students throughout the state have registered with the e-Scholar portal, the numbers of which are represented in the following illustrations.

SECONDARY & HIGHER SECONDARY USERS



TESTIMONIALS (e-Scholar users)

Forwarded  
 Name\_Dalari Nongrum  
 Class\_10  
 School\_Kamala Nehru Secondary School

Advantages of the link provided

1. It is the best way to access to academic courses in this chaotic situation.
2. Through this link "nice e scholar", studying and understanding various concepts about different subjects has become interesting and easy to learn.
3. It also aids in active interaction between the students and the teachers as, students can learn the subjects in a different manner which boosts their interests in the subject and tend to be curious about the subjects.
4. It contains video clips, audio sounds and pictures with perfect understanding capabilities.
5. Above all, the best thing about this link is that, it explains all the different topics of a particular subject with detailed information and in a simple and plain methods which is very convincing for all students.

These are the advantages according to me after being a frequent user of the link!

4:45 pm

Forwarded  
 Respected sir,  
 As we are not able to go to school because of the deadly infection of COVID 19. We are provided by the government a site, where we can register our names to get the valuable information and study materials, through that very app. We are being able to get important study materials which is helping me and all my friends to get the notes etc. Through that we can perpetuate our studies by sitting at home. And we can also prepare ourselves for coming exams. I am very much thankful to MBOSE as we are sitting and studying at home safely

Name- Priyanka Das  
 Class- xii  
 Roll no. 033  
 Stream- Arts  
 School- Women's College Higher Secondary School

4:45 pm

Forwarded  
 Name: Phiboshpina Kharkeng  
 CLASS: 3 A  
 School Name: AUXILIUM GIRLS' HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOL

Thanks a lot for giving us this opportunity to write a small review regarding the nice infotech portal. According to me it's really a good idea that the portal has been brought about because it has helped us a lot regarding the explanation as it includes all the chapters as per MBOSE course. From my point of view even though for some subject the explanation is quite not brief yet it has all the important or basic information that we required and for some it give us additional info. We can easily access it anytime from anywhere. It's been helpful as it shows us clipping and videos related to the topic. Even though the explanation isn't deep but overall the portal is very helpful and beneficial.

THANK YOU...

Forwarded  
 I think e-Scholar is a great tool for students especially during this lockdown to keep them busy at home and utilise the time at home. e-Scholar has calculator, convertor etc which is helpful for students, plus mock test, digital library etc are also available. And as per the syllabus is concerned it covers all the NCERT syllabus.. From mathematics point of view. Teacher class XII maths, Lady Keane Girls HS School.

4:45 pm



# Free Online Course for Teachers

The free Online Course for Teachers was initiated as soon as Covid 19 lockdown started as there was no reliable mechanism for teachers to connect with their learners to ensure learning takes place at home. Teachers had to rely on WhatsApp groups, sending assignments on SMS and connecting with their students through platforms like Zoom, Google Classroom, etc. Even though the efforts of teachers were highly commendable, it was observed that there were a few gaps especially in the structuring of content and an absence of robust assessment strategies. Further, even the very well-produced e-learning resources brought out by teachers lacked alignment with learning outcomes and in many cases did not address learning objectives adequately. As a result, the MSIP Team from the DERT decided to offer a free online course to help teachers in the following aspects:

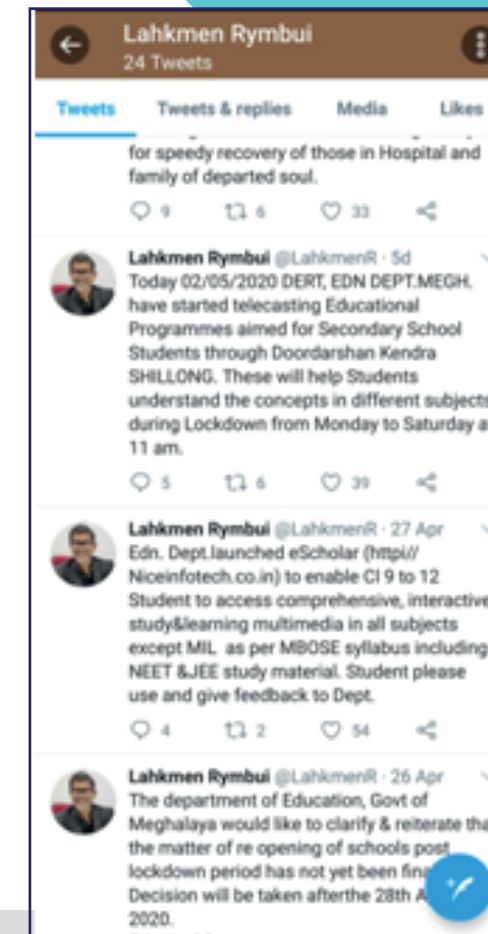
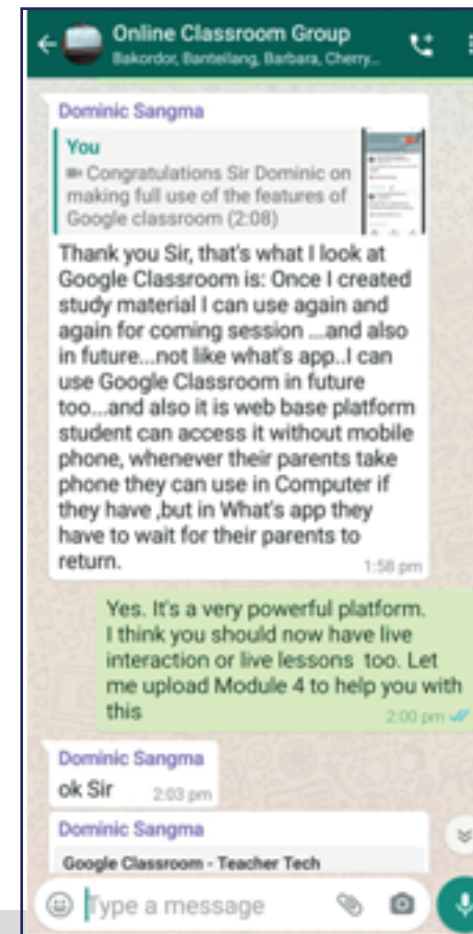
- Setting up their own online classroom
- Undertake topic analysis exercises
- Analyse Course and Lesson content for students
- Extract Learning Objectives by deconstructing Learning Outcomes (LO) statements
- Prepare simple online formative and summative assessment tools
- Prepare Unit Plans by mapping the course content with LOs
- Acquire adequate knowledge on the stages of instructional design (ID)
- Use ID to plan their online lessons
- Offer a platform for networking with other teachers from across the State and share best practices

The course was initially targeted at only the MSIP schools as teachers have been capacitated in using learning outcomes. However, due to the sudden surge in online enrolments, the DERT has had to start two teacher cohorts with capacity for 250 enrolments each.

A sizeable number of teachers (289) registered, and this experience has revealed the existing divide and the need to shift to large-scale ICT infusion in schools.

LESSON MAPPING TABLE				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
The learners will be able to -				
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Identify the location of Meghalaya in the Map of India and in the North East</li> <li>2. State the boundaries of Meghalaya</li> <li>3. Name the Districts with their headquarters</li> <li>4. Trace the history of Meghalaya</li> <li>5. To list the major tribes in Meghalaya with their languages</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Explain the geographical features of Meghalaya</li> <li>2. Examine the Climate of Meghalaya</li> <li>3. Find out the Demographics or Population in Meghalaya</li> <li>4. List the different religions in Meghalaya</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Study about the Government of Meghalaya</li> <li>2. Find out the Economy of Meghalaya from different sources of production</li> <li>3. Recall the Natural Resources of Meghalaya</li> <li>4. Discover the Energy Resources in the State</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Differentiate the Transport and Communication System in Meghalaya</li> <li>2. Categorise the Educational System in Meghalaya</li> <li>3. List down the tourism spots in the State</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Recall the Historical Monuments in Meghalaya</li> <li>2. Select the Important Places in Meghalaya:</li> </ol>
<b>Learning Outcome:</b> Locate Meghalaya in the outlined Map of India or in the North East, know the basic facts of Meghalaya, trace the history and geography of Meghalaya, tribes, religions, languages, climate, soils, Economy, transport and Tourism in Meghalaya.				
<b>Knowledge/Concepts:</b> (What do students need to know or understand?) Locate Meghalaya in the outlined Map of India or in the North East, know the basic facts of Meghalaya, trace the history and geography of Meghalaya, tribes, religions, languages, climate, soils, Economy, transport and Tourism in Meghalaya.				
<b>Skills:</b> Locate Meghalaya On the Outlined Map of India.				
<b>Level of Bloom Taxonomy:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remember/Understand everything about Meghalaya</li> <li>• Analyse/Apply</li> <li>• Evaluate/Create</li> </ul>				
<b>Learning Objectives aligned to this learning outcome:</b> Students will be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read Maps</li> <li>• Know about the Basic facts of Meghalaya</li> <li>• Understand the history and Geography of Meghalaya</li> <li>• Describe its climate and demographics</li> <li>• Study about the Government and Economy Appreciate its tourism and Education</li> <li>• Describe the historical Monuments of Meghalaya.</li> </ul>				
<b>Evidence of Students' Mastery:</b> How will we know when they know it?				
<b>Map reading skills through maps on:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Locate Meghalaya on the outlined Map of India</li> <li>2. Identify the latitude and longitude of Meghalaya</li> <li>3. State the Boundaries of Meghalaya</li> <li>4. Identify the different districts in Meghalaya with their quarters</li> <li>5. Explain the history and geography of Meghalaya</li> <li>6. Identify the different tribes, languages and religions in Meghalaya</li> <li>7. Discuss the Government and the Economy of the state</li> <li>8. Appreciate its tourism and Education</li> <li>9. Identify the Historical monuments and important places in Meghalaya</li> </ol>				

Sample Unit Plan (Riwar Mihngi Presbyterian Secondary School, Umtong)



## Mass Broadcasting

The Education Department, Government of Meghalaya has also signed an MOU with DDK, Shillong and AIR for broadcasting lessons to students designed by the department and focus on hard spots of the school curriculum. Students can tune in to AIR Shillong, Tura or Jowai for these lectures.



Signing of MOU between the Department of Education and AIR/DDK

